

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed February 11, 2009 the Office noted that claims 1-20 were pending and rejected claims 1-6, 11-14 and 20 and objected to claims 7-10 and 15-19. Claims 1-20 have been amended, no claims have been canceled, and, thus, in view of the foregoing claims 1-20 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Office's rejections and objections are traversed below.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office has indicated that claims 7-10 and 15-19 would be in a condition for allowance if re-written in independent form. The Applicants thank the Office for the consideration given the claims and submit that the claims are allowable for the reasons discussed below.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The disclosure stands objected to for informalities. In particular the Office asserts that the Specification lack section headings. The Applicants submit herewith a replacement Specification to provide the headers. The Applicants submit that no new matter is believed to have been added by the replacement Specification.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 11-14 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Frederic, FR 2,776,796. The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection with an argument.

Frederic discusses a smart card intended to incorporate, in addition to a microcircuit module 2 with integrated circuit 1 (forming together with an antenna 5 an "communication interface"), another electronic component 4 emerging at the surface (see figure 1; it is mentioned in connection therewith that the antenna is made of a wire which is sufficiently rigid so that this antenna can be manipulated, and that the component 4 may be a display with a controller 3). This electronic component 4 is connected to the communication interface (more precisely to the microcircuit 1) by conductive wires 6 and 7. The resulting assembly is fixed temporarily against a first plastic material plate 11 (see figure 2) whereas a second plastic material plate 19 is placed on top of the assembly (see figure 3), an opening being provided either in the first plate or in the second plate to serve as a housing for the electronic component (in figure 2, two openings 13 and 14 are provided in the first plate 11 for reception of the module and of the component 4, respectively ; further an adhesive film 12 is located on lower face of this plate so as to provide a bottom to the openings 13 and 14 receiving the module 2 and

the component 4). Both plates are then fastened to each other (see resin 18 in figure 3 which is heated after placing the second plate), enclosing the communication interface and the electronic component.

It is clear that such method necessitates dedicated equipment for positioning the assembly within the thickness of the plastic structure before the final manufacturing step and providing appropriate openings in the plates. Furthermore, the communication interface and the component must be able to withstand the temperature at which the plates are fastened together.

On pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, it is asserted that Frederic discloses "a support film (10) carrying on an internal face the microcircuit (1) and at least the accessible component (2) and on an external face the external contacts (12)," as in claim 1. Further, claim 1 requires that the support film is provided with a window facing a portion of the accessible component.

Such features are not disclosed in Frederic. In Frederic, none of the plates is a film and carries the microcircuit and a component on one face and external contacts on the other face.

Further, claim 1 requires a card support provided with a housing for the support film together with components carried thereby. No such card support can be found in Frederic.

Frederic instead merely discusses two plates with fixing resin between same, the assembly being embedded within such resin and "sandwiched" between the plates.

Further, it is clear at least from the drawings of Frederic that the "card support" is a support provided with a housing, extending inwards from one of its external faces and consisting of at least a cavity so that the film support, when set in the housing, forms part of (and lies substantially flush with) such external face; in the technical field, this card support is sometimes called "card body" and corresponds to a major part of the thickness of the eventual card.

It is submitted that the feature according to which the subassembly is "fixed in a housing formed in a portion of the thickness of the card support" is not disclosed by Frederic, since the subassembly of Frederic is simply embedded in a resin between the two plates so that there is no actual housing formed in a portion of the thickness of the card support. The difference is even more made clear by the method of claim 13.

For at least the reasons discussed above, claims 1 and 13 and the claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated by Frederic.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102. It is also submitted that claims 1-20 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s) :

- a Substitute Specification and a marked-up copy of the originally-filed specification